

CLAIMS:

1. An implantable gastro-intestinal device comprising:
  - a gastric bypass comprising an inlet and an outlet;
  - 5 an expandable chamber attached to the gastric bypass;
  - an optional esophageal extension attached to the inlet of the gastric bypass, wherein food passes into the gastric bypass through the esophageal extension;
  - 10 an optional small bowel extension attached to the outlet of the gastric bypass, wherein the small bowel extension receives material exiting the outlet of the gastric bypass.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the gastric bypass comprises a flaccid gastric bag.
  - 15 3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the gastric bypass comprises ribbing molded therein, wherein the ribbing maintains an open volume in the gastric bypass in the absence of compressive forces thereon.
  - 20 4. A device according to claim 1, wherein the gastric bypass comprises a sleeve containing a wire, wherein the sleeve and wire cooperate to maintain an open volume in the gastric bypass in the absence of compressive forces thereon.
  - 25 5. An implantable gastrointestinal device comprising:
    - a gastric bypass comprising an inlet and an outlet;
    - an expandable chamber attached to an outer surface of the gastric bypass, wherein the expandable chamber comprises a plurality of adjacent subchambers in fluid communication with each other, wherein the plurality of adjacent subchambers are distributed over at least a portion of the outer surface of the
    - 30 gastric bypass, and wherein the plurality of adjacent subchambers maintain an open volume in the gastric bypass in the absence of compressive forces thereon;
    - an optional esophageal extension attached to the inlet of the gastric bypass, wherein food passes into the gastric bypass through the esophageal extension;

an optional small bowel extension attached to the outlet of the gastric bypass, wherein the small bowel extension receives material exiting the outlet of the gastric bypass.

- 5     6. A device according to claim 5, wherein the plurality of adjacent subchambers are arranged in a quasi-geodesic pattern.
7. An implantable gastro-intestinal device comprising:
  - a gastric bypass comprising an inlet and an outlet;
  - 10    an expandable toroidal chamber located proximate the inlet of the gastric bypass, wherein the toroidal chamber holds the inlet in an open configuration when the toroidal chamber is inflated;
  - 15    an optional esophageal extension attached to the inlet of the gastric bypass, wherein food passes into the gastric bypass through the esophageal extension;
  - an optional small bowel extension attached to the outlet of the gastric bypass, wherein the small bowel extension receives material exiting the outlet of the gastric bypass.
- 20    8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the gastric bypass is flaccid outside of the toroidal chamber.
9.    A device according to claim 7, wherein the toroidal chamber is asymmetric.